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FACT SHEET

Political Pluralism

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, has supported Bosnia-Herzegovina in its efforts to consolidate the structures of its government. Programs aim to strengthen the ties between parliaments and ministries and the citizens who put them into office. Likewise, USAID is providing assistance to moderate political parties in an effort to improve their outreach capacities and responsiveness to local concerns.

USAID programs support U.S. Government priorities to 1) activate and engage moderate political parties at all levels and help legislatures better perform their legislative and oversight functions; and 2) establish parliamentary oversight and democratic controls. Overall, the U.S. Government has provided over \$1 billion to support the development of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Political Party and Parliamentary Development Program

(May 2003 – September 2007)

Implementer: National Democratic Institute (NDI)

NDI helps party municipal branches to enhance their connections with local communities by identifying and promoting issue-based politics. NDI also assists non-governmental organizations in building links to political parties and parliaments particularly those representing women and youth. The project works on strengthening State and entity parliaments and assists parliamentary caucuses and committees to develop ties to their constituents and to improve their efficiency. A student internship program previously administered by NDI has been successfully taken over by the BiH parliaments with NDI oversight.

Budget: \$5.2 million



Political party training focuses on constituent concerns

Political Party and Policy Analysis Development

(July 2003 – September 2007)

Implementer: International Republican Institute (IRI)

IRI focuses on providing municipal branches of political parties with specific training (planning, research, recruitment of new members, local coalition building and voter outreach), thus increasing their ability to work on concrete issues of local concern. IRI also helps parties to build and maintain linkages with civil society organizations. In addition, the program supports local policy analysis and research organizations to encourage issue-based politics and improve policy outcomes.

Budget: \$3.2 million